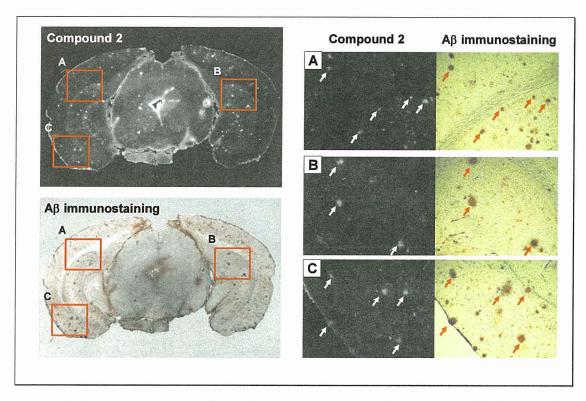


図 3. アルツハイマー病患者脳切片における F 化最適化化合物(Compound 2, 3, 5, 7)の染色性



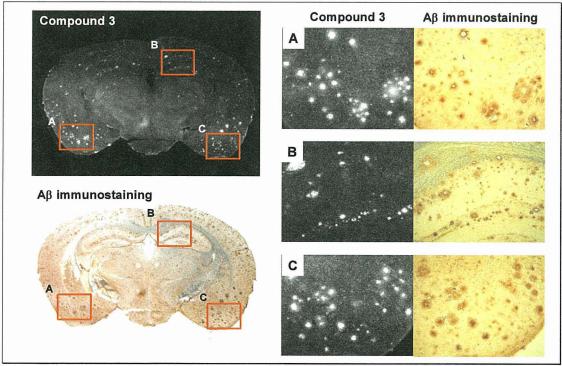


図 4. Tg マウスにおける静脈内投与された Compound 2 および 3 のアミロイド班への結合性 Compound 2 (上段パネル) および 3(下段パネル) それぞれの左側上段は静脈内投与後の実体蛍光顕微鏡画像を示す。 それぞれの左側下段は段は左側上段と同一切片の抗 $A\beta$ 抗体染色像。 それぞれ右側のA、B および C は対応する左側の同一部位の強拡大。

厚生労働科学研究費補助金(萌芽的先端医療技術推進事業) 分担研究報告書

PET 診断利用を目的とした ¹⁸F-標識 BF-227 自動合成装置の開発

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研究協力者:古本祥三3、石川洋一1、渡辺利光2

(¹ 東北大学サイクロトロン・RI センター、² 住友重機械工業株式会社・技術開発センター、東北大学先進医工学研究機構)

[研究要旨]

本研究では、 18 F-標識アミロイドイメージング剤の自動合成装置の開発を目指し、 3 つのモジュールから構成される超小型合成装置(ミニチュアモジュール)を設計・試作した。

A. 研究目的

我々は、超小型マニホールド電磁弁を用いて PET薬剤自動合成装置の超小型化に取り組んでき ている。その特徴は、

- 超小型の電磁弁をマニホールドブロックに取り付けブロック内部に流路を設けることで電磁弁間をつなぐチューブとの接続を省き使用する部品数を大幅に削減できる。
- 部品数を減らすことで信頼性を向上させ、メンテナンスを容易にし、製作コストを削減できる。
- ●電磁弁をマニホールドに3次元的に配し、少量 の液体試薬のリザーバーをブロックに設ける ことでサイズを大幅に小さくできる。

図1にその原理を模式的に示す。これまでにこの 方法でいくつかのミニチュア合成モジュールを 試作し、それに合わせた開発した小型化した制御 用のインターフェイスを用いて完全に自動化し た超小型の PET 薬剤の自動合成装置とした。図 2 はその例として[11 C]メチオニンと[11 C]メチルタ イロシン合成用ミニチュアモジュールを示す。

本研究では、これらの技術を用いて[18F]フッ素

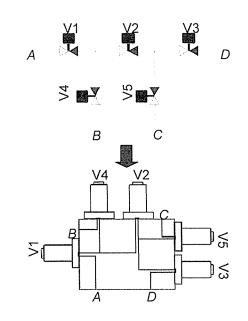


図 1. ミニチュアモジュールの 作製法

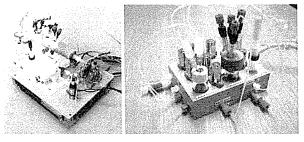


図 2. $[^{11}C]$ メチオニンと $[^{11}C]$ メチルタイロシン合成用ミニチュアモジュール本体

イオンから新しい ¹⁸F-標識アミロイドイメージン グ剤を自動合成し臨床診断に供給できる自動合 成装置を開発することを目的とする。

B. ミニチュアモジュールの開発

[18F]フッ素イオンを用いる 18F-標識反応は、一般に以下の合成過程で構成される。

- 1. [¹⁸F]フッ素イオンのターゲット水からの分離。
- 2. K₂CO₃ 水溶液による[¹⁸F]フッ素イオンの溶 出と反応容器への移送。
- 3. クリプトフィックス添加と水分の留去。
- 4. 反応基質液の添加と加熱反応。
- 5. 脱保護反応。
- 6. HPLC 精製のための前処理。
- 7. HPLC 精製
- 8. 分取液からの HPLC 溶媒の除去と注射液の 調製。

今回の ¹⁸F·標識アミロイドイメージング剤に関しては、ステップ 5 の脱保護反応は不要であり、6 の固相抽出カラムを使用する前処理を以下に示す一般的なものとして装置を設計した。

- i. 反応液に水を添加(溶媒の極性を高める)。
- ii. 混合液を tC18 に通し固相抽出 (標識反応物など低極性成分を捕集する)。
- iii.tC18 を水で洗う (カラムに残存する高極性成分を洗い流す)。

iv. エタノールで目的物を溶出。

v. HPLC カラムに注入。

2-1. 装置の構成と詳細設計

図 3 は[18F]フッ素イオンの製造・取出しから注射液の調製までを行う全システムの構成を示す。この中で分担開発の対象になっているのは、[18F]フッ素イオンモジュール、18F・標識反応モジュール、精製モジュール、の 3 つの超小型合成モジュールである。その詳細な流路を図 4 に示す。

2-2. [18F]フッ素イオンモジュール

本モジュールは、 18 F·標識反応一般に共通する 操作である合成ステップ 1 と 2 を実行するもの であり、 $^{[18}$ F]FDG 合成などのために既に開発し ていたものをそのまま利用することとした。図 5 る にその写真を示す。照射容器から回収される $^{[18}$ F] フッ素イオンを含むターゲット水をまずリザー バーに集め、次に使い捨ての陰イオン交換カラム である 2 Sep·Pak Light Accell QMA カートリッジ (Waters)に通して $^{[18}$ F]フッ素イオンを捕集する。 続いて 2 K 2 CO 3 水溶液をカートリッジに通して $^{[18}$ F]フッ素イオンを溶出し、次の 18 F·標識反応モジュールに移送して反応容器に集める。

2-3. ¹⁸F-標識反応モジュール

このモジュールでは、あらかじめ反応容器に相間移動触媒である Kryptofix 2.2.2® (K.222) を溶解したアセトニトリル溶液に[18 F]フッ素イオン- 18 K $_{2}$ CO $_{3}$ 水溶液を混合し、アセトニトリルー水の

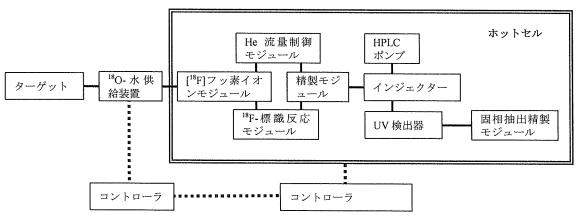


図 3. 合成装置全体構成図

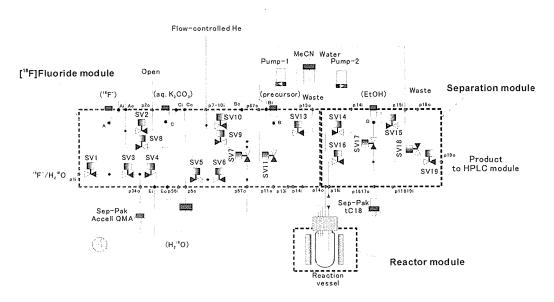
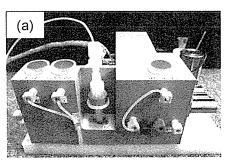


図 4. ¹⁸F-標識アミロイドイメージング剤合成用ミニチュアモジュール流路図





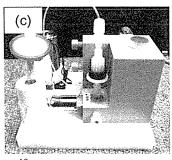


図 5. ミニチュアモジュール (a: $[^{18}F]$ フッ素イオン、b: ^{18}F -標識反応、c: 精製)

共沸関係を利用して加熱下 He を流しながら留去する。反応容器は市販の比較的薄いガラス壁を持つ丸底フラスコ(10 mL、Wheaton)に特別に設計した PEEK 製キャップを取り付け、5 本の注射針を通して液体と気体の添加・取り出しを行う構造となっている。また、反応溶媒の取り出しのために1本の注射針は上下に可動なものとして、使用しないときは液面より上に保持して液の逆流を防ぐ(図 5b 参照)。

最も迅速な水分除去を実現する方法の一つとして遠赤外線ヒータの使用が検討されたが、本標識合成で対象とする 18F・フッ素反応物は光で異性化するためこの方法を見合わせ、超小型のセラミックヒーターを多数使用して完全な遮光下での加熱法を採用した。図 6 にその構造を示す。ヒータは全部で 5 個使用しているが、その設定電圧や

外部温度の設定値を変化させ、He 流速変化で溶媒の留去の完了を検出する方法を検討した。図 7はその一例を示すが、現在のところ乾固操作に要する時間は約 12 分と少し長めであり、今後最適

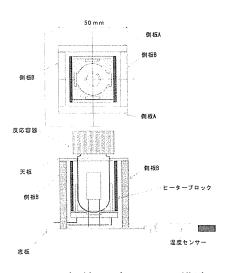


図6. 加熱モジュールの構造

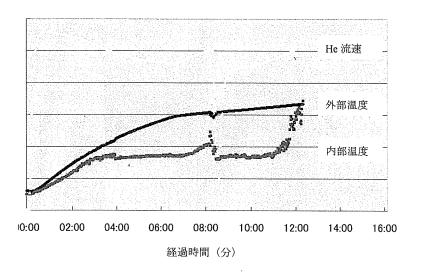


図 7. 加熱時の温度と He 流速の変化

化を進める時間の短縮を図る。

2-4. 精製モジュール

図 5c は設計どおりに試作された精製モジュールを示すが、本合成装置の開発段階で精製法の一部が変更され、その結果マニホールドモジュールを最初から設計し直して新たに作製する必要が生じた。変更された精製法では、反応物を捕集したtC18カートリッジを水とリン酸緩衝液・アセトニトリル混合液の2回にわたって洗浄する。その詳細な操作は以下の通りである。

i. H₂O (7 mL) を吸い上げ、反応液に加え混合

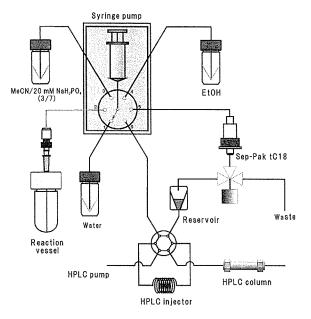


図 8. シリンジポンプによる精製モジュール

する。

- ii. 混合液を吸い上げ、tC18 に押し 出し廃棄する。
- iii. 再び H₂O (5 mL) を吸い上げ反 応容器に加え洗浄し、tC18 に押 し出し廃棄する。
- iv. 空気を吸い tC18 に流し液を完全 に追い出す。
- v. MeCN-PHO (5 mL) を吸い上げ tC18 に流し廃棄する。
- vi. EtOH (0.5 mL) を吸い上げ tC18 に流し溶出液をリザーバーに集 める。
- vii. H_2O (0.5 mL) を吸い上げ tC18 を通して リザーバーに集める。
- viii. リザーバーに集めた液をインジェクタール ープに移す。

このような変更に対して、操作が固定されている マニホールドモジュールでは対応が困難である。 従って、開発段階にある合成に対し柔軟に対応可 能な方法を採用することとした。すなわち、小型 のシリンジポンプと多方切換弁を組み合わせた 市販の装置(ハミルトン社製 PSD3)を採用して 図8に示すモジュールを設計した。シリンジポン プは電動のため動作は可変であり、プログラムを 通して任意の量を扱うことができる利点がある。 これに加えて、固相抽出カラムからの溶出液を HPLC インジェクターのループに移送する操作 もこのシリンジポンプを使用して行うようにし た。従って、HPLCインジェクターも小型の電動 インジェクター(レオダイン社製)を採用するこ とにした。図9にそれらを採用した装置前面の外 観を示す。

C. 今後の展開

合成装置開発におけるハードウエアに関しては、合成モジュールに使用する小型インターフェ

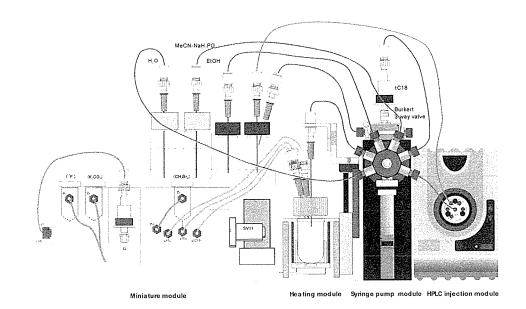


図 9. 変更後の合成モジュール概観図

イスの作製が現在精力的に進められている。この 完成を待ってLabviewを用いたPC上でのプログ ラムを完成させ、ホット試験を行うことになる。 従って、平成19年度における18F・標識アミロイ ドイメージング剤のルーチン合成とPET臨床検 査への供給は計画通り実現するものと考える。ま た、本装置の2施設への提供も計画通り行われる であろう。

D. 研究発表

なし

厚生労働科学研究費補助金(萌芽的先端医療技術推進事業) 分担研究報告書

多施設共同試験を目的とした ¹⁸F 標識 BF-227 合成装置の製造

分担研究者:青木 康2

研究協力者:渡辺利光²、岩田錬³、谷内一彦¹

(¹東北大学大学院医学系研究科機能薬理学分野、² 住友重機械工業株式会社、³東北大学・サイクロトロン RI センター放射性医薬品科学分野)

[研究要旨]

本研究では、アルツハイマー病診断において有用な化合物である BF-227 について、¹⁸F による標識を効率的に、安全に供給可能な小型化された合成装置を試作した。ミニチュア電磁弁を使用した 3 次元マニホールド型自動合成装置は、従来装置に比較し、小型化を図ることができた。本装置を用い、他の PET 施設へのアルツハイマー病診断の普及も容易に実施できると考えられる。

A. 研究目的

アルツハイマー病(AD)診断において、東北大学、 (株) ビーエフ研究所によって共同開発された BF-227 は、AD に特徴的な脳病理所見とされるア ミロイド β たん白(A β)に特異的に集積する特 徴がありこの薬剤を対象に、自動合成装置化を行 う。

B. 研究方法

BF-227 を ¹⁸F にて標識するために、出発原料に ¹⁸F を求核置換することで標識し、保護基を脱離 させ、粗製製品をつくる。粗製製品を分離精製機構 (HPLC) に導入し、目的画分を分取することで、投与可能な純度を持つ最終製品を得る。

放射性核種を使用するため、限られたスペースであるホットセル(放射線遮蔽空間)に入れるため、従来よりはるかに小型化する必要がある。超小型化において、ミニチュア電磁弁を使用する3次元マニホールド化技術を使用し、合成装置を実

現する。

C. 研究結果

- 1. PET 標識合成システムの小型化
 - a) 3次元マニホールドによるモジュール化
 - b) 反応部の小型化
- c) 医療機器申請に耐えうる設計の実施 上記 a) \sim c)を実現するためのシステム構成を図 1に示す。

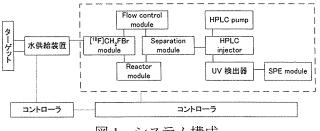


図1 システム構成

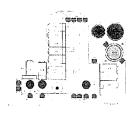
このうち、[18 F]CH₂FBr module および Separation module について、東北大学・岩田教授の指導のもとミニチュア電磁弁を使用した 3 次元マニホールドによるモジュール化を実施した。

また、Reactor module について、セラミックヒー

タを用いた加熱系を採用し、クリーンで安全な反 応部を実現した。

[18F] CH₂FBr module

この module は、ターゲットからの 18 F の回収と Reactor module $^{\sim}$ の原料、溶媒の供給を行うためのもので、デッドボリュームを減らすため、ミニチュア電磁

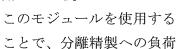


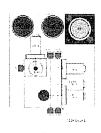


弁による3次元マニホールド化を実施しました。

Separation module

この module は、反応液を分離精製機構(HPLC)に送り込む前に、1 次精製を実施するもので、市販のカートリッジ型固相抽出カラムを使用している。





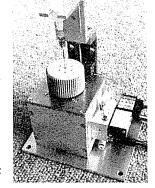


を低減し、より良い標識薬剤を得ることが期待できる。

Reactor module

この module は、標識反応 を行う部分となり、小型 化が望まれていたところ でもある。

BF-227 は、遮光で反応を 実施する必要があり、赤



熱化しないセラミックヒータを採用し、さらに、 反応容器を覆うことで、小型化を実現した。 また、反応中の液上がりを防ぐ構造として、シリンダーによる取り出しラインの上下駆動を持っ ている。このモジュールでは、これまでの合成装 置と違い、圧縮空気やオイルを使用することがないので、クリーンな環境での合成を実現できると考えている。

当社では、これら3つのモジュールを組み合わせ、 一つの装置として医療機器申請に耐えうるシス テム化を行った。

ー連のシステムテストを実施し、¹⁸F 標識の BF-227 合成を実施できるものと考えている。 今後、東北大学において、実際に ¹⁸F 標識を行い、 本装置の性能を把握する必要がある。

D. 考察

3 次元マニホールド化技術を使用して、自動合成装置を構成するモジュールの小型化が実現できた。自動合成装置の設計において、当社の持つ 医療機器設計技術を用い、医療機器申請に耐えうる装置設計を実施した。

E. 結論

本装置の試作により、超小型化された ¹⁸F 標識の自動合成装置を実現できると考える。平成 19 年度には、本試作合成装置を使用し、¹⁸F 標識の性能を把握する必要がある。また、さらに、本装置を使用し、BF-227 ばかりでなく、各種の ¹⁸F 標識薬剤の供給を実現していくことを考えている。

[参考文献] なし

F. 研究発表

- 1. 論文発表 なし
- 2. 学会発表なし

- G. 知的財産権の出願・登録状況 (予定も含む)
- 1. 特許取得

なし

2. 実用新案登録

なし

3. その他

なし



研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

書籍

著書氏名	掲載文のタイトル	書籍全体の 編集者名	書籍名	出版社名	出版地	頁	出版年
工藤幸司	分子イメージング	平井俊策	老年期認知症ナビ ゲーター	メディカル ビュー社	東京	248-249	2006
伊藤健吾,加藤隆司,新畑 豊,鷲見幸彦	PET	平井俊作監 作, 浦上 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 一 二 一 二 一	老年期認知症ナビゲーター	メディカル レビュー	東京	246-247	2006
石渡喜一	[11C]PIB合成法	石渡喜一、 岩田錬、高 橋和弘	PET用放射性薬剤の製 造および品質管理第 3版	PET化学 ワーク ショップ	仙台	161-165	2007
石井賢二	アルツハイマー病診 断:画像 (PET). アル ツハイマー病診断 早 期発見・早期介入のた めに		アアルツハイマー病 診断 早期発見・早 期介入のために	真 興 交 易 (株)医書 出版部	東京	106-120	2006

雄法

雑誌					
発表者名	論文タイトル	発表誌名(略名)	巻号	開始一終了頁	出版年
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2-(2-[2-Dimethylaminothiazol-5-yl]Ethenyl)-6-(2-[Fluoro]Ethoxy)Benzoxazole: A Novel PET Agent for In Vivo Detection of Dense Amyloid Plaques in Alzheimer's Disease Patients

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Extensive deposition of dense amyloid fibrils is a characteristic neuropathologic hallmark in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Noninvasive detection of these molecules is potentially useful for early and precise detection of patients with AD. This study reports a novel compound, 2-(2-[2-dimethylaminothiazol-5-yl]ethenyl)-6-(2-[fluoro]ethoxy)benzoxazole (BF-227), for in vivo detection of dense amyloid deposits using PET. Methods: The binding affinity of BF-227 to amyloid-β (Aβ) fibrils was calculated. The binding property of BF-227 to amyloid plaques was evaluated by neuropathologic staining of AD brain sections. Brain uptake and in vivo binding of BF-227 to AB deposits were also evaluated using mice. For clinical evaluation of ¹¹C-BF-227 as a PET probe, 11 normal (healthy) subjects and 10 patients with AD participated in this study. Dynamic PET images were obtained for 60 min after administration of ¹¹C-BF-227. The regional standardized uptake value (SUV) and the ratio of regional to cerebellar SUV were calculated as an index of 11 C-BF-227 retention. The regional tracer distribution in AD patients was statistically compared with that of aged normal subjects on a voxel-by-voxel basis. Results: BF-227 displayed high binding affinity to synthetic A β 1-42 fibrils (K_i [inhibition constant], 4.3 ± 1.5 nM). Neuropathologic staining has demonstrated preferential binding of this agent to dense amyloid deposits in AD brain. Moreover, a biodistribution study of this agent revealed excellent brain uptake and specific labeling of amyloid deposits in transgenic mice. The present clinical PET study using ¹¹C-BF-227 demonstrated the retention of this tracer in cerebral cortices of AD patients but not in those of normal subjects. All AD patients were clearly distinguishable from normal individuals using the temporal SUV ratio. Voxel-by-voxel analysis of PET images revealed that cortical BF-227 retention in AD patients is distributed primarily to the posterior association area of the brain and corresponded well with the preferred site

for neuritic plaque depositions containing dense Aß fibrils. Conclusion: These findings suggest that BF-227 is a promising PET probe for in vivo detection of dense amyloid deposits in AD pa-

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Substantial neuropathologic evidence suggests that the deposition of senile plaques (SPs) and neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) represents the characteristic neuropathologic hallmark in Alzheimer's disease (AD) (1). Progressive accumulation of SPs is considered fundamental to the initial development of dementia. Extensive deposition of SPs in the brain is present even in very mild AD and precedes the presentation of cognitive impairment (2,3). Several antiamyloid drugs are under development for the treatment and prevention of AD (4). For early detection and preventive intervention for AD, noninvasive imaging of neuropathologic lesions is a powerful strategy.

For this purpose, several imaging techniques have been developed that can noninvasively detect SPs in the brain using PET, SPECT, and MRI. Among these imaging modalities, PET is the most advanced and practical method for in vivo measurement of SP depositions. To achieve successful imaging using PET, various radiolabeled agents have been developed. Currently, 6OH-BTA-1 (PIB) is the most successful PET agent for in vivo amyloid imaging. This tracer sensitively detects amyloid fibrils in the brain and is proven to be useful for early diagnosis of AD (5-7).

However, amyloid-\(\beta \) deposition is also frequent in aging, even in cognitively intact individuals. Excessive identification of AB has a potential risk to misjudge the normal aging process with abnormal Aβ deposition. In the

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PET AGENT FOR DENSE AMYLOID-β DEPOSITS • Kudo et al.

normal aging process, noncompact or diffuse amyloid plaques containing less fibrillar A β are deposited primarily in the brain. Brains from patients with AD are characterized by an anatomically widespread process of amyloid deposition and neuritic plaque formation containing dense amyloid fibrils (8). A shift of brain A β from the soluble to the fibrillar form is closely associated with the onset of AD (9). Therefore, selective detection of dense amyloid fibrils would be advantageous to differentiate the normal aging process from AD with high specificity.

We have previously demonstrated a novel series of benzoxazole derivatives as promising candidates for an in vivo imaging probe of SPs (10–12). These derivatives showed comparatively high blood–brain barrier (BBB) permeability, high binding affinity for A β aggregates, and high specificity for fibrillar A β deposits, suggesting potential merit for the early detection of AD-related pathologies. Herein we introduce an optimized derivative, 2-(2-[2-dimethylaminothiazol5-yl]ethenyl)-6-(2-[fluoro]ethoxy) benzoxazole (BF-227), as a PET probe for in vivo detection of dense amyloid deposits in humans.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation of Compounds

Fig. 1] BF-227 (Fig. 1) and its *N*-desmethylated derivative (a precursor of [AQ3] ¹¹C-BF-227) were custom-synthesized by Tanabe R&D Service Co. ¹¹C-BF-227 was synthesized from the precursor by *N*-methylation in dimethyl sulfoxide (Fig. 1) using ¹¹C-methyl triflate (*13,14*). After quenching the reaction with 5% acetic acid in ethanol, ¹¹C-BF-227 was separated from the crude mixture by semipreparative reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography and then isolated from the collected fraction by solid-phase extraction. The purified ¹¹C-BF-227 was solubilized in isotonic saline containing 1% polysobate-80 and 5% ascorbic acid. The saline solution was filter

¹¹C-BF-227 was solubilized in isotonic saline containing 1% polysobate-80 and 5% ascorbic acid. The saline solution was filter sterilized with a 0.22-µm Millipore filter for clinical use. The radiochemical yields were >50% based on ¹¹C-methyl triflate, and the specific radioactivities were 119–138 GBq/µmol at the end of synthesis. The radiochemical purities were >95%.

In Vitro Binding Assays

Binding affinities of the compounds for synthetic A β 1-42 aggregates were examined as described previously (10). Briefly, solid-form A β 1-42 (Peptide Institute) was dissolved in 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) and incubated at 37°C for 40 h. The binding assay was performed by mixing 100 μ L of aggregated

Aβ1-42 with the appropriate concentration of ¹²⁵I-labeled 2-(4methylamino)styryl-5-iodo-benzoxazole (BF-180) and 8% ethanol. After incubation for 4 h at room temperature, the binding mixture was filtered and filters containing bound 125I ligand were counted using a y-counter. The dissociation constant (K_d) and maximum specific binding (B_{max}) of BF-180 were determined. For inhibition studies, binding studies were performed using synthetic AB1-42 aggregates. A mixture containing 50 µL of BF-227, 50 µL of 0.05 nM $^{125}\text{I-BF-}180,\,100~\mu\text{L}$ of 100 nM AB1–42, and 800 μL of 8% ethanol was incubated at room temperature for 4 h. The mixture was then filtered through Whatman GF/B filters, and filters containing bound 125 I ligand were counted in a γ -counter. Values for the halfmaximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) were determined from displacement curves of 3 independent experiments using Prism software (GraphPad), and values for the inhibition constant (K_i) were determined using the Cheng-Prusoff equation.

Measurement of Octanol/Water Partition Coefficients

Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and 1-octanol (Wako) were saturated with 1-octanol and PBS, respectively, before use. BF-227 was dissolved in 1-octanol and shaken with equal amounts of PBS for 30 min at room temperature. After centrifugation at 2,000 rpm for 15 min, absorbency of the 1-octanol layer was measured at the peak wavelength of the absorbance spectrum of BF-227 using a Spectra Max 190 microplate reader (Molecular Devices). Octanol/water partition coefficients were determined by comparing absorbency with that before shaking with PBS. Each data point was performed in duplicate.

BBB Permeability of BF-227 in Normal Mice

Brain uptake of BF-227 was measured using 11 C-labeled compound. The 11 C-BF-227 (1.1–6.3 MBq) was administered into the tail vein of male C57B6 mice (n=23; mean weight, 28–32 g). Mice were then sacrificed by decapitation at 2, 10, 30, and 60 min after injection. The whole brain was removed and weighed, and radioactivity was counted using an automatic γ -counter. The percentage injected dose per gram of tissue (%ID/g) was calculated by normalizing tissue counts to tissue weight. Each %ID/g value is expressed as a mean \pm SD of 3 or 4 separate experiments.

Neuropathologic Staining

Postmortem brain tissues from a 69-y-old man with autopsy-confirmed AD and an 81-y-old man with autopsy-confirmed physiologic aging were obtained from Fukushimura Hospital (Toyohashi, Japan). Experiments were performed under the regulations of the ethics committee of BF Research Institute. Serial sections (6-µm thick) from paraffin-embedded blocks of temporal cortex, striatum, and cerebellum were prepared in xylene and ethanol. Before

FIGURE 1. Chemical structures of BF-227 and BF-168 and radiosynthesis of BF-227.

2 The Journal of Nuclear Medicine • Vol. 48 • No. 4 • April 2007

the staining of compounds, quenching of autofluorescence was performed as described previously. Quenched tissue sections were immersed in 100 µM of BF-227 or 0.125% thioflavin-S solution containing 50% ethanol for 10 min. Sections stained with each compound were then dipped briefly into water and rinsed in PBS for 60 min before coverslipping with Fluor Save Reagent (Calbiochem); sections were examined using an Eclipse E800 microscope (Nikon) equipped with a V-2A filter set (excitation, 380-420 nm; dichroic mirror, 430 nm; long-pass filter, 450 nm). Sections stained with thioflavin-S were dipped briefly in tap water and in 50% ethanol and then washed in PBS for 60 min before coverslipping; this was followed by fluorescent microscopy using a BV-2A filter set (excitation, 400-440 nm; dichroic mirror, 455 nm; long-pass filter, 470 nm). In addition, adjacent sections were immunostained using monoclonal antibody (mAb) against AB (6F/3D; Dako A/S). After pretreatment with 90% formic acid for 5 min, sections were immersed in blocking solution for 30 min and then incubated for 60 min at 37°C with 6F/3D at a dilution of 1:50. After incubation, sections were processed by the avidinbiotin method using a Pathostain ABC-POD(M) Kit (Wako) and diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride.

Labeling of Aß Deposits in Transgenic Mouse Brain

Ex vivo plaque labeling with BF-227 was evaluated using PS1/ APPsw double transgenic mice (n = 2) and a wild-type mouse (n = 1) (male, 32-wk old) (15). A BF-227 solution containing 10% polyethylenglycol 400 and 0.1 mol/L HCl was administered into the tail vein at a dose of 4 mg/kg. Mice were anesthetized using sodium pentobarbital 2 h after injection of BF-227; they were then perfused transcardially with ice-cold saline, which was followed by 4% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M PBS, and the brains were removed. After cryoprotection in 30% sucrose/0.1 M PBS, 6-µm frozen sections were cut using an OTF cryostat and imaged with no additional staining for fluorescent microscopy using a V-2A filter set. The same sections were immunostained using mAb against AB (6F/3D) as described earlier.

Subjects and Patients in Clinical PET Study

Eleven normal (healthy) control subjects, including 3 young normal subjects and 8 aged-matched normal subjects, and 10 probable AD patients underwent PET measurement of 11C-BF-227 [Table 1] distribution in the brain (Table 1). AD patients were recruited [AQ4] through the Tohoku University Hospital Dementia Patients Registry. The diagnosis of AD was made according to the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Diseases and Stroke/ Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (NINCDS-ADRDA) criteria. The normal control group was recruited from volunteers, who were taking no centrally acting medication, had no cognitive impairment, and had no cerebrovascular lesion on MR images. No significant difference in age was apparent between the AD group and the aged normal control group. AD patients had significantly lower mean mini-mental status examination (MMSE) scores than normal control subjects. This study was approved by the ethics committee on clinical investigations of Tohoku University School of Medicine and was performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. After complete description of the study to the patients and subjects, written informed consent was obtained.

Image Acquisition Protocols

The protocol of the PET study was approved by the Committee on Clinical Investigation at The Tohoku University School of

TABLE 1 Subject Demographics

Group	Subject	Sex	Age (y)	MMSE score
Young normal	YN 1	М	36	30
(n = 3)	YN 2	M	37	30
	YN 3	M	36	30
	Mean ± SD		36.3 ± 0.6	30.0 ± 0.0
Aged normal	AN 1	M	69	30
(n = 8)	AN 2	F	70	29
	AN 3	F	64	30
	AN 4	F	65	30
	AN 5	M	67	30
	AN 6	Μ	69	30
	AN 7	M	71	30
	AN 8	M	59	30
	Mean ± SD		66.8 ± 4.0	29.9 ± 0.4
All normal	Mean ± SD		58.5 ± 14.6	29.9 ± 0.3
(n = 11)	AD 1	F	65	24
AD $(n = 10)$	AD 1		75	24 19
	AD 2 AD 3	M F	75 72	21
	AD 3	F	82	18
	AD 4 AD 5	F	62	20
	AD 5	F	68	21
	AD 6 AD 7		70	23
	AD 7	M F	70 85	23
	AD 8	М	78	23 14
	AD 9 AD 10	F	76 75	26
	Mean ± SD	Г	73.2 ± 7.3*	20.9 ± 3.4*†

^{*}P < 0.05 vs. young normal group.

Medicine and the Advisory Committee on Radioactive Substances at Tohoku University. The 11C-BF-227 PET study was performed using a SET-2400W PET scanner (Shimadzu). After intravenous injection of 211-366 MBq of ¹¹C-BF-227, dynamic PET images were obtained for 60 min (23 sequential scans: 5 scans × 30 s, 5 scans \times 60 s, 5 scans \times 150 s, and 8 scans \times 300 s) with each subject's eyes closed. The T1-weighted MR images were obtained using a SIGNA 1.5-T machine (GE Healthcare).

Image Analysis

First, standardized uptake value (SUV) images of ¹¹C-BF-227 were obtained by normalizing tissue radioactivity concentration by injected dose and body weight. Subsequently, individual MR images were anatomically coregistered into individual PET images using Statistical Parametric Mapping software (SPM2; Welcome Department, U.K.) (16). Regions of interest (ROIs) were placed on individual axial MR images in the cerebellar hemisphere, striatum, thalamus, frontal cortex (Brodmann's areas [BA] 8, 9, 10, 44, 45, 46, and 47), lateral temporal cortex (BA 21, 22, 37, and 38), parietal cortex (BA 39 and 40), temporooccipital cortex (BA 18 and 19), occipital cortex (BA 17), medial temporal cortex (BA 27, 28, 34, and 35), pons, and subcortical white matter, as described previously (17). The ROI information was then copied onto dynamic PET SUV images, and regional SUVs were sampled using Dr. View/LINUX software (AJS). The interrater [AQ5]

 $^{^{\}dagger}P <$ 0.05 vs. aged normal group.

MMSE = mini-mental status examination.

[AQ6] reliability for the ROI measurement was tested between 2 raters in 14 subjects and patients. The intraclass correlation coefficient was 0.95 in the frontal cortex and cerebellum, 0.97 in the lateral temporal and parietal cortices, and 0.98 in the medial temporal cortex. The correlation coefficient between these 2 measurements was 0.96 in the frontal cortex, 0.97 in the lateral temporal cortex, and 0.99 in the parietal cortex, medial temporal cortex, and cerebellum. SUVs between 40 and 60 min were averaged to calculate the SUVs for group comparison.

Statistical Analysis

For statistical comparison in the 3 groups, we applied the Kruskal-Wallis test, which was followed by Dunn's multiple comparison test. The difference in time-activity curves in 11C-BF-227 PET was also evaluated by repeated measures ANOVA, which was followed by the Bonferroni-Dunn post hoc test. For statistical comparisons of PET measurements in aged normal and AD groups, we used the Mann-Whitney U test. Effect size coefficients (Cohen's d) were also calculated for the evaluation of group differences in PET measurements. Statistical significance for each analysis was defined as P < 0.05. Statistical comparison between images from normal control subjects and AD patients was performed on a voxel-by-voxel basis using SPM2 software (16). SUV summation images 30-60 min after injection were stereotactically normalized using individual MR images into a standard space of Talairach and Tournoux. The normalized images were smoothed using a $16 \times 16 \times 16$ mm gaussian filter. The count of each voxel was normalized to the cerebellar ROI value, because cerebellum is reported to be a region free of fibrillar amyloid plaques in AD brain. Images of patients with AD (n = 10)were compared with those of aged normal control subjects (n = 8)for between-group analysis (P < 0.001, uncorrected; extent threshold. k = 200). For the group analysis, a 2-sample t test was used to detect differences between the AD and normal control groups.

RESULTS

In Vitro Binding Study for Aß Fibrils

In vitro binding assay indicated that BF-227 shows high binding affinity for A β 1-42 fibrils. K_i for A β 1-42 fibrils in competitive binding assay using ¹²⁵I-BF-180 was 4.3 \pm 1.5 nM in BF-227, comparable to levels previously reported for compound BF-168.

[AQ7]

4/C

Neuropathologic Staining in AD Brain Sections

Neuropathologic examination using BF-227 indicated that amyloid plaques were selectively stained with BF-227 in AD brain sections (Fig. 2A). Especially, cored plaques were [Fig. 2] brightly stained with BF-227, indicating that this compound preferentially binds to mature amyloid plaque. This staining pattern correlated well with Aβ immunostaining in adjacent sections (Fig. 2B, arrows). BF-227 staining was further compared with staining using thioflavin-S. In contrast to clear staining of SPs and NFTs with thioflavin-S (Fig. 2C), BF-227 primarily stained SPs, with faint staining of NFTs (Fig. 2B, arrowheads). No apparent staining was also observed in the temporal brain section of the aged normal case (Fig. 2D).

BBB Permeability and Clearance from Normal Brain

Next, we investigated whether BF-227 entered the brain in amounts sufficient for use as a PET agent. The $\log P$ value of BF-227 was 1.75, close to that of BF-168 ($\log P = 1.79$). Intravenous administration of BF-227 into normal mice indicated that this compound readily penetrated the BBB. Brain uptakes at 2, 10, 30, and 60 min after intravenous injection of 11 C-BF-227 were 7.9 \pm 1.3, 3.7 \pm 0.37, 1.4 \pm 0.36, and 0.64 \pm 0.15 %ID/g, respectively. 11 C-BF-227 displayed double the initial uptake and faster washout

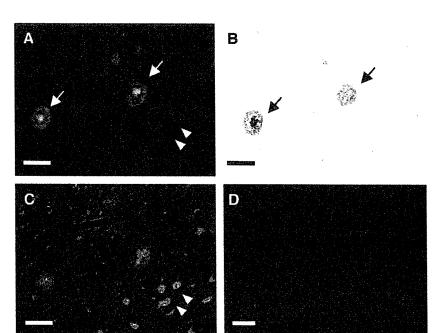


FIGURE 2. Neuropathologic staining of human brain sections by BF-227. Amyloid plaques are clearly stained with BF-227 in AD temporal brain sections (A). BF-227 staining correlates well with Aβ immunostaining in adjacent sections (B, arrows). BF-227 faintly stains NFTs, in contrast to clear staining with thioflavin-S (C, arrowheads). In aged normal temporal cortex (D), no staining by BF-227 is observed. Bar in A-C = 50 μm; bar in D = 200 μm.

4 The Journal of Nuclear Medicine • Vol. 48 • No. 4 • April 2007

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in normal brain tissue compared with that of ¹⁸F-BF-168 (3.9 %ID/g at 2 min after injection; 1.3 %ID/g at 60 min after injection).

Intravenous Administration of BF-227 in Transgenic Mice

In vivo binding of nonlabeled BF-227 to Aβ deposits was examined using PS1/APPsw double transgenic mice. After intravenous injection of 4 mg/kg BF-227, ex vivo observation of transgenic mouse brain slices showed numerous [Fig. 3] fluorescent spots in the neocortex and hippocampus (Figs. 3A and 3B). In contrast, no fluorescent spots were detected in the wild-type mouse brain (Fig. 3C). Brain sections of thyroglobulin were subsequently immunostained using Aβ-specific antibody, and the distribution of plaques labeled with BF-227 corresponded well with Aβ immunostaining (Fig. 3D, arrowheads).

Time-Activity Data of 11C-BF-227 in Clinical PET Study

No toxic event was observed in the current clinical trial of ¹¹C-BF-227. The SUV time-activity curves from ¹¹C-BF-227 PET in AD patients and all normal subjects are [Fig. 4] shown in Figure 4. Both groups showed rapid entry of ¹¹C-BF-227 into gray matter areas. In AD patients, the frontal, temporal, and parietal cortices, areas known to contain high concentrations of fibrillar amyloid plaques in AD, retained ¹¹C-BF-227 to a greater extent during the later time points compared with normal subjects (Figs. 4A-4C). When the 2 groups were compared, a significant difference in timeactivity curves was observed in the frontal (Fig. 4A), lateral temporal (Fig. 4B), parietal (Fig. 4C), and visual association cortices (data not shown). In contrast, time-activity curves in the cerebellum (Fig. 4D), areas lacking fibrillar amyloid plaques, were nearly identical in normal subjects and AD patients. The subcortical white matter region showed relatively lower entry and slower clearance than gray matter areas but no significant difference in time-activity curves between the 2 groups (data not shown). In the comparison of time-activity curves in the cortical areas and cerebellum, AD patients showed a significant difference in time-activity

4/C

curves over 10 min after administration of ¹¹C-BF-227, but normal subjects showed no significant differences.

SUV Images in AD Patients and Normal Control Subjects

SUV images summed over 20–40 min after injection of an aged normal subject (70-y-old woman) and an AD patient (68-y-old woman; MMSE score = 21) are shown in Figure 5. Cortical retention of ¹¹C-BF-227, especially in [Fig. 5] the basal portion of the frontal, temporal, and parietal region, was evident in the AD patient, in contrast with the images of the aged normal subject. This pattern of distribution is consistent with the findings of neuritic plaque distribution in postmortem AD brains (18). Higher retention of ¹¹C-BF-227 was also observed in the brainstem and thalamus; however, similar retention in these areas was detected in the aged normal subject. ¹¹C-BF-227 uptake in the cerebellum was relatively sparse in both the aged normal subject and the AD patient.

Comparisons of Regional SUVs and SUV Ratios

In the quantitative comparison of regional SUVs between 40 and 60 min after administration, cortical regions showed the tendency to be increased in AD patients; however, the difference was not significant because of the large individual difference in SUVs. SUVs in the thalamus, pons, and white matter were similar in the 3 groups. Because there were no plaques in the cerebellum, there was no BF-227 binding and no significant difference in the SUV between AD and normal groups, indicating that the cerebellum is adequate as a reference region. Therefore, the ratio of regional SUV to cerebellar SUV (SUV ratio) was calculated as an index of ¹¹C-BF-227 retention. This analysis successfully reduced the intersubject variability, as reflected in low SD values (Table 2). The mean SUV ratio [Table 2] for the frontal, lateral temporal, parietal, temporooccipital, occipital, anterior and posterior cingulate cortices, and striatum was significantly greater in AD patients than that in aged normal subjects (Table 2; Fig. 6). Notably, the SUV [Fig. 6] ratio in the lateral temporal cortex showed no overlap between AD patients and normal control subjects (Fig. 6). The SUV ratio in the medial temporal cortex, thalamus,

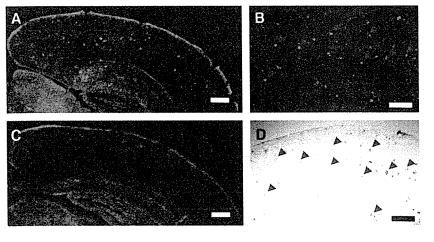


FIGURE 3. In vivo binding of BF-227 to amyloid plaques in PS1/APP transgenic mouse. In brain sections from PS1/APP transgenic mouse after intravenous injection of 4 mg/kg BF-227, numerous fluorescent spots were observed in neocortex and hippocampus of brain (A and B). In contrast, no fluorescent spots were observed in brain of wild-type mouse (C). Distribution of plaques labeled with BF-227 corresponded well with Aβ immunostaining in same section (B and D, arrowheads).

PET Agent for Dense Amyloid-β Deposits • Kudo et al.

5